

Meeting of the Heating Advisory Committee on August 16, 2006

Members present: Kevin Bayley, Steve Dumais, Ken Herrick, Bob Ives, Al Little, Bob Lundergan, Lyndon Rickards, Ken Taylor, Bob Wilkins

The Fire Marshal stated that the gas piping installer license must be the basic license. If a person wanted any of the other specialty licenses the person must also hold the gas fitters license. He also was not in favor of just grandfathering people. The Fire Marshal wanted proof of minimum hours of field experience and then the technician would need to pass a test. The committee agreed with the Fire Marshal, that affidavits were needed to verify hours and testing was necessary. Fire Marshal Degnan accepted that a person who met the requirements of any of the other specialty licenses would qualify for the gas piping installer license.

The committee again revisited the field experience hours required. They decided to reduce the number of hours required for the gas piping installer from 2,000 hours to a minimum of 1,000 hours. They also decided to increase the number of hours required for installation and service technicians from 1,000 hours to a minimum of 2000 hours.

The subject of appliances such as pizza ovens, stoves, pool heaters, fryolaters, etc. was again discussed. Ideas such as a separate specialty license, expanding the piping installer license to include them, or leave them under the existing specialty licenses were debated. The committee decided to leave them under the existing specialty licenses.

The committee decided to remove determining if a space is confined or unconfined from the educational requirements for installers. They felt it was redundant.

Getting new people into the industry was also revisited. After much discussion the committee agreed on the following. A level 1 helper permit for each specialty license. Available if a person did not meet license requirements. All helpers must have a helper permit and be under the direct supervision of an on site licensed person. The licensed person could supervise a maximum of 2 helpers. The field training and the type of work that the helper was performing must be consistent with the educational requirements listed in the rules. The helper permit would be valid for two years and be renewable only once.

The issue of allowing bobtail drivers to leak test and light pilots when customers ran out of fuel was discussed. The committee decided that it was not necessary to license them to do this work as there was no new piping, no installation, and no changing of parts (no service being performed). In essence the gas piping was intact and not disturbed in any way.

The subject of continuing education was also reviewed. The question was how a clerk would interpret the 8 hours of training required every 2 years. The members decided to clarify this to avoid any confusion. Stating that continuing education must be

technical training relevant to the gas industry and that the 8 hours was not 8 hours per specialty license.

The committee decided that the amount of people needing to be trained and/or tested to be licensed would overwhelm the system. Therefore a temporary provisional license was necessary to keep people working and provide service to the public. This temporary provisional license would be available for all of the specialty licenses. That applicants must provide evidence of a minimum of 2,000 hours of field experience relevant to the educational requirements for each specialty license and verified by affidavit or hold a valid New Hampshire Master's or Journeyman's Plumbing License. The temporary provisional license would not be renewable and would expire 2 years from the effective date of the rules.

The Fire Marshal again stated he was against grandfathering people. He did also stated that he wanted the committee to come up with standards for equivalence to the training programs. He was also willing to consider cutting off equivalency 2 years after the rules were approved.